



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 19, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 19, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 51°F in the morning to 57°F in the afternoon. While a small mist of rain began at about noon and continued to the end of the working day, no measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing fill and grading on the south bank, repairing silt fence, placing potted plants in appropriate locations on the north bank, concrete filling near Tide Gates and Stormwater Outfall, digging a water pipe trench near the pump house, repair on the Southeast Channel outfall, and repair of the privacy fence. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:25 am. Biological monitoring begins. Six Mallards fly overhead due south. Two American Coots are in the Southeast Channel delta and an Anna's Hummingbird can be heard in the eucalyptus tree near the Pump House. A Black Phoebe can be heard in the palms along Washington. A Gull flies over head.

6:55 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The biologist alerted the crew's attention to the two ducks in the basin and to be aware of the likelihood that more waterfowl will be present. The biologist also reminded the crew to watch for Monarch butterflies.

7:21 am. Crew begins work. A California Gull and an American Crow are perched on light posts along Washington. An Anna's Hummingbird flies across the basin heading south. Two workers begin to repair the silt fence and two others begin to remove the privacy fence along Admiralty Way. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the center of the East Basin.

7:58 am. Two American Coots and two Mallards are wading in the East Basin. One worker is moving dirt piles near the east basin and grading for the walking path along Admiralty begins. A California Gull flies over the Southeast Channel due north. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on top of a tree next to the bike path.

8:00 am. A California Gull flies overhead due south. Two American Crows and one California Gull fly north over Washington. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the fence wire near the Central Basin. A plant delivery arrives.

8:20 am. An American Crow perches on top of the temporary electric wires. A worker is jackhammering concrete near the Stormwater Outfall. The two American Coots are now on the south portion of the East Basin. The two Mallards are no longer in the Basin.

8:45 am. A Great Egret flies overhead due north. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is at the Southeast Channel bank foraging. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the trees along the bike path. Rock Pigeons fly overhead near the towers on Admiralty Way. A number of American Crows are in the trees near the Pump House.

9:00 am. Several Cassin's Kingbirds are flying between the palm trees along Washington.

9:20 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the fence wire. Another Anna's hummingbird is in the trees next to the Tide Gates. There is another male Anna's hummingbird perched on the powerlines near the trailer. A Black Phoebe is perched on the staged plants nearby.

9:45 am. Two mechanical rammers are being used simultaneously on the north and south ends of the East Basin creating a fair amount of noise. Several European Starlings are in the palms on Washington north of the site.

10:00 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging along the bank of the East Basin, another flies west along the walkway. The American Coots and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are in the Southeast Channel. An excavator is being used to dig a trench for the water piping by the Pump House.

10:30 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a shovel handle near the Construction Trailer. A Western Gull flies overhead due south. Several Rock Pigeons are perched on the top of Killer Cafe.

11:00 am. A worker repairs the privacy fence along the Southeast Channel. A Say's Phoebe is

perched on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel. An Anna's hummingbird is perched on a tree top along the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies overhead of the Southeast Channel, another flies from the Northeast Peninsula to the palms along Washington, and another is in the mudflats of the Central Basin.

11:15 am. A group of Gulls flies high above due north.

11:30 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:15 pm. Work resumes.

12:30 pm. A Say's Phoebe is in a bush near the Construction Trailer. There is concrete pouring by the Tide Gates. A Black Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are on the Berm in the Central Basin. The American Coots are in the East Basin.

1:00 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the tree by the staged plants near the East Basin. The cement pouring at both the Stormwater Outfall and Tide Gates is complete. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree near the bike path. An American Crow is heard near the Pump House. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence near the East Basin.

1:24 pm. A California Gull flies south. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the powerlines by the parking lot.

1:42 pm. A Great Egret soars overhead from the Southeast Channel over towards the Killer Café until it is out of sight. The American Coots are back at the East end of the Southeast Channel. An American Crow is perched on a light post near the Southeast Channel.

2:07 pm. A Black Phoebe is in the West Basin mudflat. Several Gulls are seen circling over the marina. Three Western Gulls fly overhead from north to south. A Group of Rock Pigeons fly around the towers at Admiralty Way. A Ring-billed Gull and a California Gull fly south towards the Southeast Channel.

2:30 pm. A Black Phoebe is on the bank of the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging through the staged plants near the East Basin.

2:55 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on a wooden stake in the Central Basin. A California Gull flies overhead from east to west. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake south of the berm in the West Basin. A Ring-billed Gull flies over from west to east.

3:15 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is heard in the trees behind the Pump House. A Black Phoebe is perched on the outlet of the Southeast Channel. An Anna's hummingbird is perched in the trees near the Pump House. A Western Gull and California Gull fly overhead.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 4:00pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No planting occurred today.

Significant brown surface algae can be seen mostly in the Southeast Channel.

No monarch butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. No monarch butterflies or any other butterflies were observed today. The cooler temperatures likely contributed to no butterfly observations.
4. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

8. There was a decrease in activity compared to the previous weeks. It is possible that the heavy noise of construction activities today contributed to low wildlife activity.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 19, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 19, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2 individuals flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	2 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6-8 individuals observed perched in the palms and flying along Washington Boulevard
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	7-9 individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Several observed flying between the palm trees along Washington



*Figure 1 - Coastal salt marsh mix being staged for planting in Central Basin*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 20, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 20, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 57°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. While some rain was evident by wet soils at the site in the morning, it had stopped by 6:30 am. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing fill and grading on the south bank, planting the coastal salt marsh mix in the central basin, building more scaffolding near the Stormwater Outfall, cleanup of construction debris and stockpiles, and repairing of the privacy fence. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. Two American Coots are in the Central Basin south of the Berm. An Anna's Hummingbird can be heard in the trees near the Pump House. An unidentified waterfowl flies west overhead, but does not land.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The biologist pointed out the two coots in the basin and

discussed the abundance of hummingbirds. A daily reminder to watch for Monarch butterflies is mentioned. There is also an advisory to be careful of the slippery, muddy conditions caused by precipitation during the previous evening or early morning.

7:15 am. Crew begins work. Planting begins in the Central Basin. A group begins to take down the privacy fence to continue the filling of slurry for the walking path along Admiralty Way. Workers prepare scaffolding for the parapet wall near the Stormwater Outfall.

7:44 am. Two American Crows are perched on a light post near the Construction Trailer. Several Gulls fly overhead. An American Crow is perched on the electrical lines by the parking lot. An Anna's Hummingbird is flying between the trees near the tide gates. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the West Basin south of the Berm.

8:03 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perching between stakes of the silt fence in the Southeast Channel. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler flies into the trees near the Pump House. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the trees near the Pump House. Another Anna's Hummingbird is seen in the trees near the bike path.

8:15 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly out of the trees from the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler goes from the Southeast Channel into the trees behind the Pump House. A worker begins to clean up the debris by the Boat Ramp with a tractor. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging in the Southeast Channel.

8:37 am. An Allen's Hummingbird is in the trees near the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler can be heard in the same trees. An Anna's Hummingbird is also spotted in the trees near the bike path. A Black Phoebe is perched on the concrete next to the outfall in the Southeast Channel.

8:50 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen crossing the Southeast Channel and into the eucalyptus trees. A Black Phoebe forages along the bank of the Southeast Channel Delta. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on a wooden stake of the silt fence along the south side of the East Basin and flies to the north side.

9:05 am. A Cinnamon Teal flies into the East Basin, wades with the American Coots for a few minutes and then flies off.

9:15 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perching between wooden stakes in the south bank of the East Basin. Five American Crows are in the staging area near the Construction Trailer.

9:30 am. A Northern Mockingbird is chasing a Yellow-rumped Warbler out of a palm tree along Washington. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the staged (potted) trees on the Northwest Peninsula. A European Starling is foraging in a palm and a Yellow-rumped Warbler flies between the palms along Washington.

9:45 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a fence wire near the Central Basin.



9:54 am. An Anna's Hummingbird perches on the tree next to the Tide Gates. Two American Crows fly out of that tree and into the palms across Admiralty Way. A California Gull is perched on a street lamp next to Killer Café.

10:02 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence and flies between the banks of the Southeast Channel.

10:14 am. Two American Crows fly between the trees at the east end of the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler can be heard in the trees behind the Pump House. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are in the stockpiles near the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe flies from the East Basin to land near the same stockpiles.

10:24 am. A Snowy Egret is walking along the bank near the Stormwater Outfall to the Southeast Channel.

10:34 am. An Allen's Hummingbird is seen flying around a pine tree near the bike path. Several House Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers fly between the trees and the privacy fence along the bike path. A Black Phoebe is perched along the concrete curb of the new walking path.

10:53 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the security fence around the trees by the Tide Gates. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the powerlines near the parking lot. Workers add scaffolding to the west Tide Gate.

11:12 am. A European Starling flies from the north into a palm tree along Washington. A truck comes on site to service the restrooms.

11:24 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence next to the outfall of the Southeast Channel. Two American Coots are foraging at the surface of the water in the same area. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on top of a tree near the bike path. A Black Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler are perched along the south bank of the Central Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the tree next to the Tide Gates.

11:30 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:15 pm. Work resumes.

12:25 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the tree next to the Tide Gates. A second comes but is chased away. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wooden stake nearby. Another Black Phoebe perches on an upturned tree root on the bank of the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies across to the north end of the East Basin while another is perched on a set of empty planters along Admiralty Way.

12:40 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched at the top of the tree along the bike path. The American Coots are still next to the boat ramp. An American Crow is perched on a powerline pole near the bike path.

12:55 pm. A European Starling is in the palms along Washington. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on one of the staged trees in the Northwest Peninsula. A mechanic repairs a downed tractor on the Northwest peninsula. A California Gull flies over the parking lot. A House Sparrow is in the bushes next to the Construction trailer. A Ring-billed Gull flies across the parking lot.

1:12 pm. A Snowy Egret walks along the north bank of the East Basin and into the Southeast Channel. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers play between the banks and silt fence on the south side of the East Basin. A Black Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler fly along the privacy fence of Admiralty Way. A worker begins to consolidate the excavated dirt from yesterday's trench into stockpiles along the Southeast Channel.

1:30 pm. One Monarch Butterfly flies across the East Basin due north. Two American Crows are perched on streetlights on Washington then swoop to the street to eat something in the middle lane. A Ring-billed Gull flies over the West Basin and north along Washington.

1:43 pm. Two California Gulls fly over the parking lot due east. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake on the south side of the Central Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies along the bank and lands nearby.

1:57 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on piled waddles along the south bank of the East Basin. The Anna's Hummingbird is still on top of the tree by the bike path.

2:07 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird flies across the north side of the Central Basin bank. Several European Starlings are in the palms north of the Central Basin.

2:15 pm. A California Gull flies south.

2:23 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies along the south bank of the Central Basin and stands on the dirt before continuing to the trees near the Tide Gates. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence on the south end of the East Basin near the workers.

2:35 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies between the trees along the East Basin bike path.

2:46 pm. Three California Gulls fly south over the Basin. Crews begin to reinstall the privacy fence along Admiralty Way,

2:55 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies from the site to a pine across Admiralty Way. A Black Phoebe perches on a wooden stake at the end of the Southeast Channel. The American Coots begin to swim down the Southeast Channel towards the greater Basin. Three California Gulls circle the Southeast Channel once and fly north.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 4:00pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
4. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
5. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 20, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 20, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	2 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6-8 individuals observed perched in the palms and flying along Washington Boulevard
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	7-9 individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	One individual in the East Basin for a short time
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals in the trees along the bike path
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in a palm along Washington Boulevard
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual walking in East Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Two individuals near the bike path



*Figure 1 - Coastal salt marsh mix planted in Central Basin*



*Figure 2 - Mudflat water level and planting in Central Basin*





*Figure 3 - Mudflat water level in West Basin*



*Figure 4 - Pickleweed in Central Basin*





*Figure 5 - Planting in Central Basin*



*Figure 5 - Central Basin facing west*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 21, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 21, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 50°F in the morning to 68°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing fill and grading on the south bank, planting the coastal salt marsh mix in the central basin, building more scaffolding near the Stormwater Outfall, the digging of a trench along the bike path, and cleanup of construction debris and stockpiles. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. One unidentified waterfowl flies out of the basin due south. Two American Coots are in the East Basin. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are seen flying between the palms next to the Stormwater outfall. A California Gull flies overhead along Washington. Several gulls and American Crows fly over the parking lot towards the marina.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The biologist pointed out the American Coots foraging in

the basin, discussed the abundance of hummingbirds, and the Monarch sighting from yesterday. A daily reminder to watch for Monarch butterflies is mentioned.

7:15 am. Crew begins work. Planting of the coastal salt marsh mix continues in the Central Basin and along the peninsulas. Two workers begin to prepare to install a control valve for the irrigation. A group begins to take down the privacy fence to continue the filling along Admiralty Way. Workers remove scaffolding for the wall near the Tide Gates.

7:30 am. Several more Gulls begin to fly north. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall. Two Mallards are wading in the East Basin. A Gull and hummingbird fly overhead. A Worker continues to move excavated soil near the bike path to the stockpiles.

7:42 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in a tree across the bike path. Another worker begins to collect construction debris by the boat ramp with an excavator.

7:56 am. The two Mallards fly out of the basin and head east. The workers are removing the fencing along Admiralty Way. A Great Egret is perched on the railing of the Tide Gates, then flies toward the marina.

8:09 am. The crew begins to fill the walking path along Admiralty Way. An Anna's Hummingbird flies out of the staged trees on the Northwest Peninsula.

8:15 am. Two American Crows fly south. A hummingbird flies out of the trees along Washington to the trees on Admiralty Way.

8:20 am. Two American Crows are perched on a light post along Washington.

8:28 am. An Anna's Hummingbird flies into the trees along the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages around the ground near the Pump House while a Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence nearby. A few Yellow-rumped Warblers can be seen flying between the branches of the eucalyptus trees.

8:38 am. A hummingbird flies out of the trees near the bike path headed east.

8:48 am. Two Rock Pigeons are perched on a light post on Washington across from the Construction Parking Lot.

9:00 am. Five American Crows are perched on the privacy fence and forage near the staged plants by the Construction Parking Lot.

9:13 am. A male and female Hooded Merganser wade in the West Basin. The female is actively diving for food. The American Coots swim toward the West Basin. A California Gull flies overhead.

9:26 am. The Mergansers fly out of the Basin and head west.

9:34 am. A Western Gull flies overhead along Washington. A European Starling feeds on the fruits of a palm tree on Washington. A flock of Cedar Waxwings flies between palms.

9:49 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a rock on the East Basin bank.

10:12 am. A flock of American Crows fly in and out of trees near the Tide Gates. A plant delivery truck comes in. A Yellow-rumped Warbler perches on the bushes near the Tide Gates while a Dark-eyed Junco forages nearby.

10:40 am. An Anna's Hummingbird flies near the Stormwater Outfall. A Black Phoebe perches on a wooden stake on the north side of the East Basin. The Tide Gates are opened to allow water into the basin.

10:59 am. An Anna's Hummingbird and a Yellow-rumped Warbler fly out of the tree near the tide gates to forage on the ground then fly back into the tree.

11:05 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on one of the staged trees on the Northwest Peninsula.

11:11 am. A Clouded Sulphur Butterfly is observed flying over the Basin headed toward Washington.

11:16 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Outfall.

11:22 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the privacy fence along the Southeast Channel. A California Gull circles the Basin, but does not land.

11:30 am. The crew takes staggering lunches as there is a large delivery of sand. Lunches stagger between 11:30 and 12:45. The Biological Monitor takes a break from 11:45 to 12:30.

12:39 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the tree a tree near the Tide Gates. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence near the workers on the south side of the East Basin. The American Coots are in the East basin near the Southeast Channel. A cement tuck arrives along the bike path to fill the trench.

1:04 pm. A European Starling is perched in a palm tree near the Central Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird flies from the staged trees by the Northwest Peninsula to a palm tree next to the Central Basin. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead.

1:14 pm. A Clouded Sulphur Butterfly flies out of the Basin toward Washington while a hummingbird flies into a palm tree.

1:20 pm. The Tide Gates are opened to empty the Basin.

1:27 pm. A Black Phoebe flies between banks for the East Basin and perches on the silt fence. A

female Yellow-rumped Warbler flies between stakes along the south side of the East Basin near the workers. With the Basin nearly empty, the American Coots swim to the Southeast Channel.

1:52 pm. A Say's Phoebe is perched along the south side of the East Basin.

2:05 pm. A Snowy Egret flies in from the west and lands neat the boat ramp then walks into the East Basin.

2:21 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird flies from the staged trees into the palms.

2:29 pm. Several American Crows perch between the light posts, palm trees, and the Construction Parking Lot. A Black Phoebe is perched on the parapet wall near the staged plants on the west side.

2:36 pm. A Western Gull flies overhead toward the marina. The crew begins to reinstall the privacy fence. A delivery arrives with two storage crates. The storage crate on the north side of the basin is removed.

2:45 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on a silt fence post.

2:50 pm. A Black Phoebe and the American Coots are perched by the boat ramp. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on top of a tree across the bike path as workers continue with the slurry fill along the bike path.

3:06pm. A Black Phoebe perches on a wooden stake near the Northwest Peninsula then flies into the West Basin. A group of Gulls fly toward the Marina. The cement truck leaves.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 4:00pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

A crew member reported seeing at least four Monarch butterflies along the path north of the East Basin. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away



from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.

2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon. However, the wildlife activity remained quiet in the afternoon.
3. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 21, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 21, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as Western or Ring-Billed Gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	2 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1 individual observed perched in the palms and flying along Washington Boulevard
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	2 individuals perched on a light post on Washington
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	7-9 individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual walking in East Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	One individual perched on the tide gate
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Two individuals wading throughout Basin

Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Two individuals wading in the West Basin south of the Berm
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Several individuals observed flying among palms along Washington Boulevard
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	1 individual foraged near the tide gate
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1 individual perched along the south side of the East Basin

The following photographs show the mudflats and the water levels within the Basin:



Figure 1- West mudflat from the West bank prior to Tide Gate opening





*Figure 2 – Center of Basin prior to Tide Gate opening*



*Figure 3 – West Basin mudflat from west bank after basin was emptied.*



*Figure 4 – Center of Basin after it was emptied*





*Figure 5 – Coastal salt marsh mix on Northwest Peninsula*



*Figure 6 – Coastal salt marsh mix in Central Basin*





*Figure 7 – Coastal salt marsh mix on Northeast Peninsula*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 22, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 22, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 50°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing fill and grading on the south bank, planting the coastal salt marsh mix in the central basin, installation of trash screens on the Southeast Channel outfall, digging a trench along the bike path, and cleanup of construction debris and stockpiles. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:35 am. Biological monitoring begins. Three American Coots are in the Central Basin, one flies out off site. A Black Phoebe is heard in the trees near the corner of Mildred and Washington. Several Gulls fly overhead going north and east.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The biologist pointed out the American coots in the basin, discussed the abundance of hummingbirds, and the Monarch sightings, thanking the crew member

who observed and reported them. A reminder was given to clean up cuttings and water bottles at the end of the work day. The inspector also mentioned dust control and to prep stockpiles in anticipation for Saturday's rain.

7:15 am. Crew begins work. A group begins to take down the privacy fence to continue the filling along Admiralty Way, crews continue to dig and install water valves in the West Basin, and planting continues on the north side of the Basin. Several crows fly overhead.

7:30 am. Several more Gulls begin to fly north over the basin. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall. Two Mallards are wading in the East Basin. A Gull and hummingbird fly overhead. A Worker continues to move excavated soil near the bike path to the stockpiles.

7:28 am. A Snowy Egret flies in from the west toward the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler perches between the north and south banks of the East Basin.

7:42 am. An Anna's Hummingbird flies out of the trees across the bike path near the Pump House. Yellow-rumped Warblers are heard in the eucalyptus trees. A Black Phoebe perches between wooden stakes in the East Basin. Three Western Gulls fly over the basin before flying west.

7:50 am. A Snowy Egret flies in from the west and lands in the Southeast Channel near workers. An American Crow calls from the eucalyptus trees near the Pump House. The Snowy Egret flies to the top of the bank then back into the channel. Two American Crows fly from the eucalyptus trees to the palms across Admiralty Way. Crews continue putting up scaffolding for walls near the Stormwater Outfall.

8:15 am. The Snowy Egret flies out of the Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the staged trees on the Northwest Peninsula. A worker continues excavation along the bike path near the remaining pine.

8:24 am. A California Gull and a flock of Rock Pigeons fly over the Construction Parking Lot. The restroom service truck arrives.

8:50 am. A Snowy Egret is in the West Basin and flies from south of the berm to the north side. A Western Gull flies north over the Basin.

9:02 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the privacy fence near the Construction Trailer. Trash grates are being installed in the Southeast Channel outfall. The American Coots are in the Southeast Channel.

9:19 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the eucalyptus trees onto the banks at the Southeast Channel. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the fence nearby. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on top of a tree across the bike path. Another Anna's Hummingbird flies by and lands in a eucalyptus tree. Multiple trucks arrive to bring soil.



10:02 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the wall of the Pump House.

10:18 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall.

10:30 am. House Sparrows can be heard in the palms along Washington.

10:39 am. Two Rock Pigeons fly overhead. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pine by the East Basin.

10:49 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies between the Pump House and the eucalyptus trees. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are in on the bank of the Southeast Channel.

11:30 am. The crew breaks for lunch.

12:15 pm. Work resumes.

12:30 pm. A Black Phoebe is in the bushes near the Construction Trailer. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the staged trees on the Northwest Peninsula. A California Gull flies overhead toward the marina.

12:56 pm. Two American Coots are in the Southeast Channel. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree near the Pump House.

1:08 pm. A Gull flies overhead due east. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the pine next to the Tide Gate.

1:32 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies into a palm on Washington near the Central Basin.

1:50 pm. An American Crow is perched on a chimney of a home near the boat ramp. Crews begin to place tarps on the stockpiles in anticipation of tomorrow's rain.

2:25 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula. Four of the oak trees are now staged along the West Basin to be planted. A California Gull flies west over the basin. A crew member begins to water the newly planted coastal salt marsh mix on the Northeast Peninsula and Central Basin. The stockpiles in the parking lot have been covered with plastic.

2:36 pm. A Western Gull and Rock Pigeon are perched on a light post near the Killer Café. Crews begin to replace the privacy fence along Admiralty Way.

2:52 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the Pump House and flies toward the trees across Admiralty Way.

3:02 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees near the bike path and an American Crow flies into the palms along Washington.

3:18 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is on the staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon. However, the wildlife activity remained very quiet in the afternoon.
3. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 22, 2016.**

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Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	2 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Two individuals wading in the East Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	7-9 individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual walking in East Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2-3 individuals heard in the palms along Washington
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several individuals perched on nearby structures

The following photographs show the mudflats and the water levels within the Basin:



*Figure 1 – West Basin from West Basin bank*



*Figure2 – Central Basin from Northeast Peninsula*